

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

July 30-August 5, 2007 V2, Issue 42



Weekly Wrap-up

Northeast Indiana continues record-breaking economic development

Jul. 31, 2007- Governor Daniels joined executives from three Northeast Indiana businesses last week to announce the creation of more than 165 new jobs and the investment of nearly \$90 million into the region's growing economy.

The announcements at Mars Pet Care in Portland, Steel Dynamics in Columbia City and TI Automotive in Ashley bring the total competitive projects completed in Northeast Indiana in 2007 to 14. Those companies are expected to create more than 965 new jobs and invest more than \$189 million into their businesses.

"Northeast Indiana continues to play a significant role in our economic comeback," said Governor Daniels. "From aerospace to agriculture, Northeast Indiana companies are finding that the region's quality workforce, low cost of doing business and access to key distribution channels are among the best in the nation."

[Read the news release.](#)



Jul. 31, 2007- The governor tours the TI Automotive Systems plant with company officials in Ashley.

Daniels unveils "Purple Heart Memorial Highway" signs

Aug. 1, 2007- Joining veterans' groups, legislators and Indiana Department of Transportation officials in Auburn, Governor Mitch Daniels commemorated those receiving the Purple Heart honor by announcing State Road 1 as Indiana's "Purple Heart Memorial Highway."

Against a backdrop of military vehicles at the World War II Victory Museum, Daniels unveiled one of the signs, which will be placed at various county line locations along State Road 1. The state highway stretches from Steuben County to Dearborn County.

"Indiana is a state of patriots," said Daniels, among the group of about 50 veterans. "I've been to every corner of this state, and I defy anyone to find a more patriotic place. The Purple Heart is a unique and special honor, and it commands our most solid respect. These soldiers have paid a debt that we can never fully repay. When motorists throughout our state travel along the Purple Heart Highway, they will be reminded of this price."



Renaming the highway was a result of two resolutions passed this year that were authored by Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Howe) and Sen. Allen Paul (R-Richmond).

[Read the news release.](#)

Aug. 1, 2007- Governor Daniels speaks with Hoosier veterans Tibor Bierbaum and Joe Clock. Bierbaum (left), of Fort Wayne, is a Hungarian immigrant who served in the U.S. military and received the Purple Heart honor. Clock (right), a farmer from Hagerstown, proposed the initial idea for the highway renaming and helped unveil the sign.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Governor Daniels orders bridge inspections throughout state

Aug. 3, 2007- Governor Daniels has ordered inspections on Indiana bridges with design characteristics similar to the one that collapsed in Minneapolis last week. Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) bridge inspectors will examine thirteen full or partial steel deck truss bridges throughout the state.

On Friday, a statement from U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters called on all states to immediately inspect any steel deck truss bridges similar to the I-35 bridge that collapsed.

"INDOT has a vigorous inspection schedule - no less than once every two years - and that will continue for all of our bridges," said Daniels. "But we agree with the U.S. DOT on this - it's only prudent to give Indiana's steel truss bridges a closer look."

Indiana spends \$70 million in federal funding to maintain the state's bridge inventory. Thirty percent of that funding is for local bridges. Governor Daniels' Major Moves highway plan contains 200 new construction projects in which hundreds of bridges will be refurbished, rebuilt or constructed.

To expedite the inspection process, INDOT bridge inspectors were immediately dispatched last week to examine both state and county steel truss bridges. In the case of bridges shared with either Illinois or Kentucky, inspectors will study the Indiana portion of the structure.

[Read the news release.](#)



Jul. 31, 2007— Governor Daniels met with employees and toured the facility at Thunderbird Products Corporation in Decatur. The company has been producing fiberglass powerboats for over 50 years.

Governor lauds business leaders for growing Indiana's economy

Aug. 2, 2007- Nearly 30 of Indiana's top business leaders joined Governor Mitch Daniels at the governor's residence for a candid conversation on the state's business climate.

The governor met with executives from companies who have grown their Indiana presence through the acquisition of businesses to learn how Indiana could better position itself to "in-source" jobs to the Hoosier state.

"In any given year, we see a number of Hoosier companies acquired by firms elsewhere, so it occurred to me to celebrate those Indiana businesses who have been acquirers rather than acquirees," Daniels said. "While we have made substantial progress, there is always more to accomplish. Thursday's meeting gave me an opportunity to hear ideas directly from business on how we could continue to move our state forward."



Aug. 2, 2007— The governor talks with Joe Slaughter, Chairman, President and CEO of Indianapolis-based Herff Jones.

The assembly of executives from across the state represented industries ranging from transportation and logistics to high-tech informatics companies.

"One thing was clear Thursday, the entrepreneurial cultural is alive and well in Indiana," said Mike Fritsch, president of Zoom Information Systems, a Fort Wayne-based transportation information company. "From the largest companies that talked about their multi-billion dollar acquisitions to smaller companies like mine, all made note of the great opportunities for innovation in Indiana."

[Read the news release.](#)

A look ahead...

The governor will attend several events at the Indiana State Fair this week.